

The Occurrence of the Remarkable Braconid Genus *Helorimorpha* in America.

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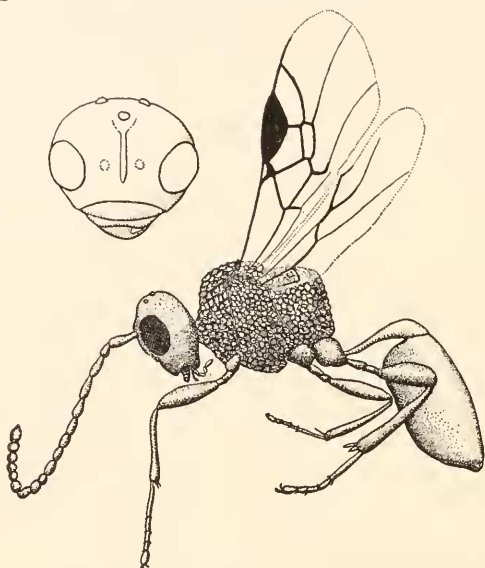
In 1907, Professor Otto Schmiedeknecht described a very peculiar little species of Braconidæ to which he gave the name *Helorimorpha cgregia* (Hym. Mitteleuropas, Jena, 1907, p. 523). The genus was new to science and for its reception, its author established the subfamily Helorimorphinæ, which he placed between the Meteorinæ and Leiphroninæ in the scheme of classification adopted in that work. The single specimen upon which Prof. Schmiedeknecht based his description seems to have been the only one so far recorded, and I was therefore very much surprised recently to receive from my friend Professor A. L. Melander, a second specimen which represents a very distinct but closely allied species collected by him some years ago at Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Like its European congener, the American species is probably very rare, as the present specimen is the only one taken during several summers of active collecting in the vicinity, by both Professor Melander and myself.

It gives me great pleasure to dedicate the species to its discoverer, in remembrance of the many entomological excursions which we have taken together into the interesting territory surrounding Woods Hole.

Helorimorpha melanderi sp. nov.

Female.—Length 4 mm. Honey-yellow; the head, except mouthparts, and the antennal flagellum black. Head seen from above, transverse, two and one-half times as wide as thick, and full behind the eyes. Eyes small, nearly circular, no longer than the large, broad cheeks. Front strongly excavated on each side above the insertion of the antennæ, the depressions separated by a strong median carina which extends from below the base of the antennæ nearly to the median ocellus. Ocelli small, placed in a small equilateral triangle which is distinctly raised and bordered by a raised line. Head margined behind on the occiput, temples and cheeks. Clypeus transverse, elliptic, very broadly and slightly emarginate anteriorly; mandibles long, acute, apparently with a broad tooth some distance before the tip. Surface of head faintly punctulate above, very closely so below, clypeus sparsely punctate, cheeks, temples and occiput smooth and polished. Antennæ 18-jointed; scape as long as the first flagellar joint, pedicel small, subglobose; flagellar joints gradually shortening to the ninth which is ovoid, following moniliform. Maxillary palpi 4-jointed. Entire thorax, including pleura, reticulated or coarsely pitted with large, almost confluent thimble-shaped punctures. Metathorax short, abruptly declivous behind; longitudinally concave on the posterior slope. Abdomen smooth and highly polished, inserted very low down between the hind coxæ, its petiole long and slender, curved and dilated at the tip as in some males of the Cryptinæ, with a few delicate striæ at the base. Remainder

of abdomen narrowly ovate, second segment concealing all the others, the ovipositor barely projecting beyond its tip. Legs rather stout, all the femora and the posterior tibiæ clavate, tips of posterior tibiæ and their tarsi black; posterior tibiæ with two short, subequal spurs. Wings hyaline, with dark stigma and pale venation. Stigma large and broadly ovate, as long as the marginal cell. Radial vein bent at a right angle, its second section regularly arcuate. First transverse cubitus as long as the first section of the cubitus, second very short, almost interstitial with the first section of the radius; submedian cell a little longer than the median, second cubital cell two and one-half times as long as wide.



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Described from one female, Woods Hole, Mass. (A. L. Melander) July 21, 1902.

The present species differs from *H. egregia* Schmied. by its honey-yellow thorax and abdomen, and more strongly clavate abdominal petiole. The abdomen is also less distinctly truncate and the wing venation slightly different.

The genus *Helorimorpha* is the representative of a truly remarkable group and reminds one strongly of certain Euphorinæ, except for the well developed wing venation, longer second abdominal segment, and more distinctly moniliform antennæ. I cannot but think that it must be an archaic form related to the stock from which the modern Euphorinæ have developed. In fact, I have a typical member of the Euphorinæ, probably representing an undescribed genus with an abdomen almost exactly like that of *Helorimorpha*. 287